

HONORING REAR ADMIRAL (RADM) THOMAS F. ATKIN FOR HIS SERVICE IN THE U.S. COAST GUARD

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a leader and constituent for his extraordinary service in the United States Coast Guard. Rear Admiral (RADM) Thomas F. Atkin served his country for 34 years in the Coast Guard and on July 1st, RADM Atkin will retire as the Assistant Commandant for Intelligence and Criminal Operations at Coast Guard Headquarters. We all owe him a debt of gratitude for his extraordinary commitment to service and to our country.

RADM Atkin distinguished himself throughout his career in the fields of law enforcement, tactical border security operations and intelligence. As a Coast Guard Flag Officer, he served in multiple key leadership positions where he was responsible for directing homeland security and homeland defense policy. RADM Atkin's positions included serving as Chief of both the Maritime Homeland Security and Defense Policy in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and the Counterterrorism Division in the Chief of Naval Operations Office. Additionally, RADM Atkin played extremely large roles in overseeing a number of significant operations. While serving as the first Commander of the Coast Guard's Deployable Operations Group, RADM Atkin was the driving force behind the development of the 3,000-member Deployable Specialized Forces, which provided some of the most advanced law enforcement, disaster response, and anti-terrorism and counter-terrorism capabilities to the Coast Guard and the Nation. He also served with distinction as the Deputy Principle Federal Official in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, where he guided life-saving response and relief efforts. RADM Atkin's efforts after these massive disasters were critical in recovery, not only for the Gulf Region, but also for the Nation as a whole. His other Flag Officer assignments included Assistant Commandant for Operational Planning and Policy and acting Assistant Commandant for Maritime Safety, Security and Stewardship.

In addition to his remarkable operational achievements, RADM Atkin also devoted himself to the Coast Guard leaders of the future through his commitment as a mentor, football and lacrosse coach, and mathematics instructor at the Coast Guard Academy. These extraordinary accomplishments reflect just a small portion of RADM Atkin's distinguished 34-year career in the service of his country.

The son of Nancy and Lawrence Atkin (CAPT, U.S. Navy, retired) and native of Duncanville, Texas, RADM Atkin is a graduate of the United States Coast Guard Academy, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematical sciences. He also earned a Master of Science degree in management science from the University of Miami. He has two sons, Levi and Joseph.

RADM Atkin's other operational assignments included Commanding Officer, Tactical Law Enforcement Team (TACLET) North in Chesapeake, VA; Commanding Officer,

TACLET Gulf in New Orleans, LA; Operations Officer, TACLET Seven in Miami, FL; Navigator, Coast Guard Cutter ALERT in Cape May, NJ; Deputy Group Commander in New Orleans, LA; and Coast Guard Liaison to Joint Task Force One Six Zero at the U.S. Naval Base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. His staff assignments included Chief, Office of Law Enforcement and Intelligence for the Eighth Coast Guard District, New Orleans, LA and Fisheries Enforcement Officer for the Eighth Coast Guard District, New Orleans, LA. His personal military awards include multiple awards of the Coast Guard Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal and the Coast Guard Commendation Medal.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the incredible career of Rear Admiral Thomas F. Atkin. We must always honor those who devoted their lives to serving our country. I am extremely proud to have him as a constituent, and I cannot thank him enough for everything he has done to protect our freedom.

HONORING DR. HOWARD COHEN AND PATRICIA COHEN

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound respect and sincere appreciation that I rise once again to recognize two of Northwest Indiana's most charitable citizens, and two dear friends, Dr. Howard Cohen and his wife, Patricia. Throughout the years, Howard and Patti have been recognized many times for their contributions to the Northwest Indiana community. On Tuesday, May 15, 2012, Dr. and Mrs. Cohen will be honored by the Rotary Club of Hammond, Indiana as the 2012 recipients of the Heinze Vocational Service Award, a recognition bestowed annually upon individuals exhibiting outstanding leadership qualities and a commitment to community service.

It would be impossible to speak of the great contributions of Patti and Howard to Northwest Indiana without boasting of the immense impact both have had at Purdue University Calumet (PUC) in Hammond. Fittingly, the event at which they will be lauded for their outstanding leadership will take place at the university, where Howard served as Chancellor from 2001 until his retirement in 2011. Under Howard's leadership, PUC's expansion was remarkable, and his commitment to the university continues today. During his tenure, students at PUC witnessed the construction of the Academic Learning Center, as well as the establishment of nine centers and institutes focused on applied research. Student housing, which had previously not existed at PUC, was also added to the campus during that time. While these visible additions to the school are quite impressive, it is Howard's commitment to raising academic standards, expanding the educational curriculum, and exposing students to a system of instruction that translates far beyond the walls of a classroom that are the true testament to his leadership.

Without question, Patti Cohen shares responsibility for these achievements and the

progress that was made over the last decade. Patti has represented PUC on trips to universities in countries throughout the world including: China, Poland, Spain, Oman, and Costa Rica. She was also instrumental in promoting the university and creating a welcoming atmosphere for students, parents, and visitors. Patti also served on numerous committees and was active in the planning and hosting of many campus and community events.

In addition to their outstanding contributions to Purdue University Calumet, Patti and Howard Cohen are also to be commended for their dedication to the entire Northwest Indiana community. With the same dedication, they have served the people of Northwest Indiana through their involvement in local organizations and their service on various boards. Although their efforts encompass many different aspects of society, all contribute to one central goal: the improvement of the quality of life for the people of Northwest Indiana and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Howard and Patti Cohen on being named the 2012 recipients of the Heinze Vocational Service Award by the Rotary Club of Hammond, Indiana. Leaders in the truest sense of the word, their selfless commitment to their community is to be commended, and they are most deserving of this prestigious honor.

HONORING MR. AIME KALANGWA

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Aime Kalangwa, a remarkable individual who has been an inspiration in the Miami community.

Aime is an 18 year old refugee originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo. An ongoing civil war in his country left him, and his brother, orphaned by the age 15. Being the only survivors from their family they attempted to find political asylum in neighboring countries. Eventually they found refuge in the United States, and were brought to Miami in January of 2011.

After arriving in the United States, Aime and his brother were adopted by Stephen and Melissa Kepper, constituents of Florida's 21st District. The Kepper's themselves are extraordinary individuals, whose dedication to children is unmatched. Not only did they adopt Aime and his brother, but they also adopted two children from Florida's foster care system. In August of 2011 Aime and his brother moved into their new home, and Aime shortly began his senior year of high school. During this time he had to overcome many cultural and language barriers, and worked daily with his tutors to pass his classes and learn English.

One of Aime's hardest classes to learn was American history. His tireless efforts were enriched on a recent trip to Washington, DC where he received a tour of the U.S. Capitol building from Jay Pierson of the Speaker's office, and visited numerous other museums and national landmarks. His hard work did not go unnoticed and towards the end of his senior year Aime received an award for Outstanding Achievement in American History at